

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

p. 9

Duxbury Clipper

DHS Grad Killed in NYC

By JUSTIN GRAEBER

Paul Fortini, a 2007 graduate of Duxbury High School and New York University student, was killed Friday night when he was struck by a car in Brooklyn, NY while out for the evening with friends.

Fortini, 19, was struck by two cars near Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, according to a spokeswoman for the New York Police Department. No charges are pending, police said.

Kathy and Ken Fortini, who were vacationing in Florida flew to New York as soon as they heard the news. They were met at the airport by NYU Security and brought back to NYU. During their stay, they sat with their son's friends in an NYU dorm room, remembering a son and a friend who was always smiling.

"Paul touched a lot of people," said his father, Ken.

While at DHS Paul participated and excelled in drama, wind ensemble, jazz band and men's a capella. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. His interests were diverse and he had a genuine thirst for learning, according to his parents.

In Duxbury, one of Fortini's former teachers, music teacher Jill Noerenberg, shared the news with her wind



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ensemble group, many of whom knew Fortini and were in shock at the death of their friend.

"He was a kid who was always smiling," Noerenberg said. "He was a great kid."

Fortini was an accomplished trumpet player and traveled with Duxbury High School to play at Carnegie Hall, Noerenberg said. She got to know him through Friday lessons at the high school, when after the lessons were over he would stay and talk

with the teachers and other students. He also taught younger students.

"He never gave up on anything," Noerenberg said. "He'd never let anything get in the way of what he wanted."

The comments on the Washington Square News Web site paint a picture of a good friend who will be sorely missed by those that knew him,

"Paul, I can't believe this happened to you," writes one poster. "I've been going over it in my head trying to accept that I will never speak to you again, but I just can't. I've cried so many times since I heard. Something like this should never have happened to someone like you. You were the most caring and intelligent person I ever knew. I am so happy we got to know each other."

"Paul was the kind of person you very rarely meet," said another. "He was a sensitive, genuine, outgoing, enthusiastic, incredibly friendly guy who would do anything for anybody even if he didn't know them."

A wake will be held Thursday from 3-8 p.m. at the Shepherd Funeral Home in Kingston. The funeral will be 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Family. Burial will follow at the Mayflower Cemetery.